



Commonwealth of Massachusetts

Executive Office of Labor and Workforce Development

Crossing Guard Safety Tips for Supervisors

Workplace Safety and Health
Program for Public Employees

January 2013

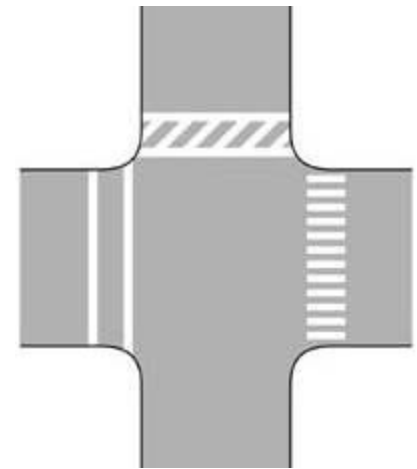
Deval L. Patrick, Governor
Timothy P. Murray, Lieutenant Governor

Joanne Goldstein, Secretary
Executive Office of Labor and Workforce
Development

Heather Rowe, Commissioner
Department of Labor Standards

6 Tips for Crossing Guard Safety

- ▶ Choose a Safe Crosswalk Location
- ▶ Make Crosswalk Visible
- ▶ Make Crossing Guard Visible
- ▶ Standard Procedures
- ▶ Traffic Enforcement
- ▶ Training
 - ▶ *This training guideline is intended to inform municipalities about providing safe working conditions for crossing guards. Guidelines from the Federal Highway Administration are provided as reference.*



Crossing Guard Injuries

- ▶ In 2012, nine Crossing Guards in Massachusetts were hit by a vehicle.
- ▶ One worker required hip surgery.
- ▶ Another worker was fatally injured.



Injury Prevention Resources

MUTCD

- ▶ The Federal Highway Administration “Manual for Uniform Traffic Control Devices” contains recommendations for crosswalk design.

Safe Routes for Schools

- ▶ The US Department of Transportation provides recommendations for Crossing Guard and pedestrian safety.



Choose a Safe Location

- ▶ Observe pedestrian and motorist habits and behavior. Crosswalk placement should anticipate inattentive behavior by pedestrians and drivers.



At many intersections, pedestrians can ignore crosswalks and light signals.

Choose a Safe Crosswalk Location

- ▶ MUTCD recommendation:
Crosswalks should not be located on streets where traffic is faster than 40 mph. If so, an engineering study should be conducted.



Choose a Safe Location

- ▶ MUTCD
First Choice:
Choose a location
with a STOP sign.



A STOP sign requires motorists to stop before encroaching on the crosswalk.

Choose a Safe Location

- ▶ MUTCD:

Second choice:

Choose a location at a traffic light.

- ▶ NOTE:

- ▶ Crossing Guards must use the RED light to stop traffic.
- ▶ Crossing Guards should not contradict the traffic signal.



Make the Crosswalk Visible

- ▶ MUTCD:

Use a distinctive paint pattern, stripe width, and crosswalk width.



Bad. Paint markings are faded and not visible.



Good. A zebra design is used to increase visibility.

Make the Crosswalk Visible

MUTCD:

- ▶ Prohibit parking within 20 feet of the crosswalk, in both directions.



view of pedestrian is obstructed

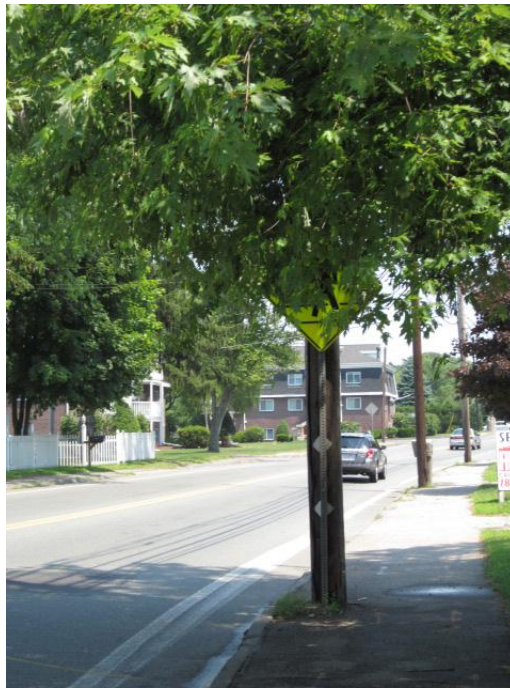
Bad. Pedestrian must walk into street in order to see around vehicles.



Good. Pavement markings prohibit parking, so that motorist can see pedestrian on sidewalk.

Make the Crosswalk Visible

- ▶ MUTCD:
- ▶ Use a high visibility Pedestrian Crossing sign.



Bad. Foliage
obstructs sign.



Good

Make the Crosswalk Visible

- ▶ A pedestrian crossing sign is not used at STOP signs or traffic lights because drivers are already expected to come to a complete stop.



Pedestrian signs are not used at STOP signs.



Pedestrian signs are Not used at traffic lights.



A pedestrian sign is used at non-signalized crosswalks.

Make the Crossing Guard Visible

OSHA and MUTCD:

- ▶ Workers in an area with vehicle traffic must wear a high visibility retro-reflective vest.

- ▶ When buying a vest, it must be labeled:
 - ANSI 107-2004 Class 2; or
 - ANSI 107-2004 Class 3; or
 - ANSI 207-2006 Police/Fire/EMS only



Make the Crossing Guard Visible

The worker should be visible from all angles:

- Facing directly at a car
- With back at car
- Turning sideways
- Bending down



An acceptable vest has

- Reflective stripe on both shoulders.
- Reflective stripe that completely wraps around the torso.
- Fabric that completely covers torso.

Make the Crossing Guard Visible

- ▶ The difference between ANSI 107–2004 and ANSI 207–2006:
- ▶ The vest for police allows less fabric to be used at waist so that officers can access their belt.



Make the Crossing Guard Visible



BAD.
This vest does not have reflective stripe on both shoulders.



BAD.
This bib does not have reflective stripe, and fabric does not fully cover torso.



BAD.
Bibs do not fully cover torso.

Make the Crossing Guard Visible

- ▶ The Crossing Guard should be visible during all weather conditions.
- ▶ Wear ANSI high visibility vest on top of winter coat or rain coat.



Make the Crossing Guard Visible

Harness-style vests do NOT meet ANSI standards.

If students use this harness, they should be restricted to sidewalk and interior-of-school activities only.



The reflective harness worn by these students does not meet ANSI standards for working in path of traffic.

Follow Safe Work Practices

Traffic Lights:

- ▶ Wait for the RED light to stop traffic flow.
- ▶ Crossing Guards should not contradict a green light.



Good. This crossing guard is waiting for the WALK signal before entering the road.

NOTE: Her reflective bib does not meet ANSI requirements.

Follow Safe Work Practices

- ▶ MUTCD recommends that a STOP paddle is used.
- ▶ NOTE: This reflective bib does not meet ANSI requirements and should not be used.



STOP Paddles



- ▶ Lighted STOP paddles are available, which increases visibility.



- ▶ A STOP paddle on a 5-foot pole increases visibility for settings that may have a line of stopped cars.

Follow Safe Work Practices

Florida Crossing Guard Training Curriculum:

- ▶ Crossing guards should not direct traffic in the traditional sense.
- ▶ Crossing guards should not instruct cars to violate traditional traffic rules.



Crossing guards should not direct traffic to turn and yield to other motorists in the same capacity as a police officer directs traffic.

Traffic Enforcement

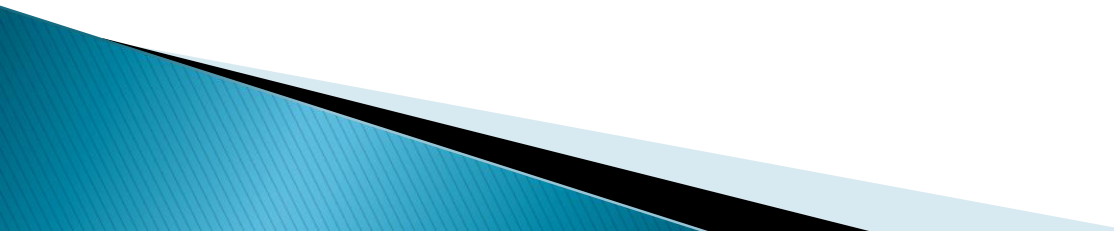
Traffic surveillance and citations can remind motorists of their responsibility to drive with care.

The town should have a system in place for Crossing Guards to report erratic driver behavior to police for follow-up.

- ▶ Drivers proceed while children still in crosswalk.
- ▶ Drivers speed up “to beat” the stop.
- ▶ Drivers refuse to stop.



Written Safety Program

- ▶ Designate person in charge of Crossing Guard safety.
 - ▶ Designate person in charge of training.
 - ▶ Explain expectations for Safe Work Practices and high-visibility vest.
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New Hire and Annual Training

- ▶ Training tools are available:

- ▶ “School Crossing Guard Training Guidelines,”

www.dot.state.fl.us



- ▶ “Adult School Crossing Guard Guidelines,”

www.guide.saferoutesinfo.org

- ▶ Training tests:

www.iowasaferoutes.org/crossingguard

- ▶ www.coloradodot.info.gov

Near-Miss Incidents

- ▶ Encourage crossing guards to report near-miss incidents. Set a mechanism for reporting.
- ▶ Follow-up on near-miss incidents:
 - Check crosswalk visibility.
 - Check parked cars encroaching on visibility.
 - Check crosswalk signs.
 - Check traffic speed and patterns.
 - Enforce traffic laws.
 - Check timing of traffic lights.
 - Discipline unruly student behavior.
 - Check ANSI high visibility vest.
 - Post police car to deter aggressive drivers.
 - With all the above items completed, observe crossing guards to determine if re-training is needed.

For More Info

- ▶ www.mass.gov/dols/crossguard
- ▶ www.mass.gov/eohhs/docs/dph/occupational-health/face-facts/crossing-guards-legal.pdf
- ▶ http://guide.saferoutesinfo.org/crossing_guard